

Hartford Elementary



May 2012 - Volume 10: Issue 9

Elementary Spring Concert

On Thursday, April 12, West Central Hartford Elementary students held their spring concert. Many songs were sung and instruments played. The final song was the West Central School Song. The students did an excellent job of showing their school spirit in this final selection. Thanks to Ms. Hoff and the WC Hartford Elementary staff and students for this wonderful entertainment!

Following the concert, the WC PTA hosted a pie auction with each pie representing a different teacher. The PTA raised \$316! Thanks for all who donated through this event.



West Central Hartford Elementary Students clap as they sing the school song.

May Events:

- Thursday, May 3rd - 2nd Grade Field Trip
- Friday, May 4th - Grandparents' Morning
- Friday, May 4th - Registrations for Summer School Due
- May 7th - 11th - Staff Appreciation Week
- Monday - May 7th - JK Field Trip
- Tuesday, May 8th - Tyler Tuesday 11:00
- Tuesday, May 8th - Track & Field Afternoon
- Wednesday, May 9th - Retirement Open House @ HS Commons 4-6:00 pm
 - Jeanette Nielson (librarian), Kathy Feldhaus (3rd grade), Cindy Graham (MS Computers/PE), Buffy Edberg (Hartford Custodian)
- Friday, May 11th - 1st Grade Field Trip
- Monday, May 14th - JK Field Trip
- Tuesday, May 15th - Bookmobile (Pick up only); Kindergarten Field Trip
- Wednesday, May 16th - Classes visit new fire station & city hall
- Thursday, May 17th - Last day - Dismiss 1:30 Trojan Buck Store; Awards Given
- Friday, May 18th - Last day for teachers
- Saturday, May 19th - Graduation

The April Birthday Bash

The April Birthday Bash was held on Friday, April 13th. Mrs. Tyler read "Happy Birthday to You" by Dr. Seuss, and each birthday child received a pencil, a card, a Trojan Buck, and a fruit snack. Happy birthday to all the April birthdays!



Kindergarten April Birthdays

Back Row: Hillary (4-5), Macee (4-3), Fisher (4-20), Wyatt (4-4), and Elizabeth (4-12)
Front Row: Hayden (4-5) and Colin (4-26)

TYLER TUESDAY

MAY 8TH

11:00 AM

FOR MAY

BIRTHDAYS!

**CALL PAM @ 528-3215 TO
REGISTER**



First Grade April Birthdays

Jaquelynn (4-7), Madison (4-17), Rachel (4-19), and Caden (4-13)



Second Grade April Birthdays

Marshall (4-24), Robert (4-11), and Eleanor (4-14)



Field Trips

Although your teacher will be giving specifics, I wanted to share the scheduled field trips for this school year.

- Thursday, May 3 - 2nd grade field trip to Army National Guard, Butterfly House, Outdoor Campus with Burger King @ Sertoma Park
- Monday, May 7 - JK visiting a bank in SF
- Tuesday, May 8th - Track & Field Afternoon
- Friday, May 11th - 1st Grade Field Trip - Children's Museum in Brookings
- Monday, May 14th - JK Field Trip - Butterfly House
- Tuesday, May 15th - Kindergarten Field Trip - Butterfly House - AM Zoo PM
- Wednesday, May 16th - All classes visit City Hall/New Fire Station

West Central PTA Meeting

Tuesday, May 1st
7:00 pm

WC High School
Library

Help Keep our Kids Safe!

We are experiencing a large number of parents parking near the south end of the parking lot and going between buses to pick up their children. This is unique to Hartford Elementary. Between buses is a danger zone! Drivers cannot always see that you or your children are there. Please use the crosswalks to cross to the parking lot and TEACH your children to do the same. There are two cross walks. One is directly out the lunchroom doors and one is by the U drop off section. Thanks for your help in this important safety issue. If you are not the one who picks up your children, please relay this message to them.



Crosswalk directly out the lunchroom doors to the parking lot.

Crosswalk by the U driveway.



The Real DW Visits Hartford Elementary

Kim Brown, Marc Brown's sister, and the inspiration for his character, D.W., provided a presentation to the Hartford Elementary students and drew from her unique perspective. She read an Arthur story and taught the kids how to draw the character, Arthur. She even gave each student an autographed stamp of Arthur!



Kim Brown speaks to students above. Below, students watch as she shows them how to draw Arthur.



Above: Arthur drawn by Kim Brown.
Below: Arthur drawn by a student.



Nurse's Notes

by Rachel Sehr, School Nurse

Don't be surprised if you start to itch just from reading this, since I'm going to be discussing the dreaded pest -- head lice.

Head lice are tiny, wingless, parasitic insects that live and feed on blood from your scalp. Unlike other blood sucking parasites, however, lice do not spread disease. They are a very common problem, affecting millions of people each year, especially preschool and elementary school-aged children and their close contacts.

Common signs of infestation include itchy red bumps on your scalp, neck, and shoulders caused by an allergic reaction to the saliva that the lice inject during feeding. Some people, particularly if it is their first infestation, don't experience itching. The most common spots to find adult lice are behind your ears and along the back of your neck. They are very tiny, about the size of a strawberry seed up to 1/8 inch for those that have been around for a while. Nits (eggs) will also be found when infested. They may be mistaken for dandruff, but while dandruff easily brushes away, the eggs are very sticky and will have to be picked off.

Getting head lice isn't a sign of bad personal hygiene or an unclean living environment. They can't fly or jump, and they're not transmitted by pets. Head-to-head contact is the most common mode of transmission and may occur as children or family members play, sleep, or interact closely together. They can also be spread through sharing hats, brushes, barrettes, headphones,

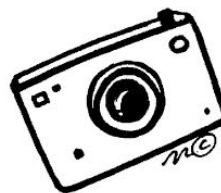
towels, clothing, blankets, pillows, etc., though this is less likely.

Both over-the-counter and prescription medications are available to treat head lice. Shampoos containing either pyrethrin or permethrin are usually the first option used to combat lice infestations. However, prescription shampoos or lotions that contain different ingredients may be necessary if over-the-counter remedies do not work. Aside from chemical treatment, it is also very important to physically remove nits. Using a fine-toothed or nit comb on wet hair usually works best. All bedding, stuffed animals, clothing and hats should also be washed in soapy water (at least 130 F) and dried at high heat for at least 20 minutes. Brushes and combs should be soaked in very hot water for 5-10 minutes. Any unwashable items should be placed in an airtight bag for 2 weeks. Floors, mattresses, curtains, and all other furniture should also be cleaned and vacuumed thoroughly.

Lice can live for about two days without a meal, and nits will die within a week if they're not kept at the same temperature as that found near the human scalp. That's why it's so uncommon for people to be infected with lice by any method other than head-to-head contact.

While there is definitely a stigma associated with head lice, keep in mind it's no reflection on your hygiene habits or those of your children, and it's not a failure on your part as a parent if your child gets head lice.

**Lifetouch Spring Pictures
or Money is due back
ASAP!**



Reflections -

by Mrs. Tyler



As with most years, this school year flew by. I've started prefacing many of my statements with "Maybe it's my age..." and maybe it is just my age, but it seems like this year flew faster than most. For me personally, it was wonderful to have my middle child home. She is working several jobs while she waits to continue her schooling with graduate school. I miss my own children terribly when they are off being adults.

Which is why my "substitute" children are so precious to me. I know you love them, as I love my own children. You trust that at school, they will be treated with respect, with love, and with the structure they need to succeed. And I try to ensure that each year.

As we wind down this school year, I hope your child is excited for summer, but also excited with the prospects of another year to come at West Central, whether it be here or WC Humboldt Elementary.

A few changes you will see here next year:

- Buffy Edberg will not be a familiar face in our hallways/lunchroom with her retirement.
- Stephanie Graff (1st Grade) is leaving us to stay home with her family.
- Janell Even (Kindergarten) is moving to Iowa with her family and we will have a new kindergarten teacher.
- We are adding a second grade section, so we will have a new second grade teacher here at Hartford Elementary, along with an additional section in Humboldt. We will now move from 4 second grade classrooms to 6!
- Mrs. Keckler, our school psychologist, has taken a position in Sioux Falls and will not be back next year.

I know there will be more changes as we head through the summer months - with new hires and new faces. If the new teacher will be your child's teacher, we'll send out letters with the teacher's picture to help your child identify with the new face before August hits.

Again, thank you for entrusting your children to our care and take some time to enjoy them this summer....before they go off being adults!

Second Grade Section to Move to Humboldt Elementary

Word gets around fast in our district (as in many districts). Our school board has decided to have 6 sections of second grade, since we had 6 sections of first grade. That means we will continue to benefit from the smaller class size of 20/21 students in a room versus 24/25. The decision has also been made to have 2 of these second grade classes in Humboldt and 4 in Hartford.

I've been calling some of the parents who have children already attending Humboldt to help make that bus transition a little easier for next year's second grade. So, if you get the call, that means I'm still looking for students to transfer over. All third grade will be attending Humboldt Elementary - so look at it as "head jump" in getting to know the Humboldt school.

Also, if I don't call you and you would voluntarily like to move your child to second grade in Humboldt, give me a call! The only real difference will be the bus ride. We have WONDERFUL teachers in our district and we choose our new hires very carefully!

- Mrs. Tyler

- 359-6182

Love & Logic Keep it Simple

Do great parents use a large variety of good parenting skills? Not typically!

Great parents don't overwhelm themselves by trying to use every trick in the book. Instead, they rely on a small number of skills yet apply them with consistency.

If you're feeling overwhelmed by your kids, could it be that you're trying too hard to do too many things? Might it be time to get back to the bare basics?

What are these "bare basics"? Listed below are the top three I've observed from my experience with thousands of truly great parents and educators:

- **They demonstrate unconditional warmth and love.**
- Kids feel this magical type of love when their parents spend plenty of time with them, when their parents focus on their strengths, and when their parents display empathy instead of anger or sarcasm when things go wrong.
- **Their "yes" is always "yes" and their "no" is always "no."**
- Great parents are extremely careful to set only the limits they know they can enforce. They remember this important rule for setting limits:
 - *Never tell a stubborn child what to do.*
 - *Instead, describe what you will do or allow.*
 -
- Would you like your kids to believe that every word you say is important?
- **They allow their kids to experience the logical and natural consequences of their decisions.**

Isn't it hard to watch our kids struggle with the consequences of their mistakes? While it breaks our hearts at times, allowing them to learn in this way gives them a tremendous advantage as they grow. They develop respect, responsibility, and a good grasp of good old-fashioned common sense.

The key, of course, is to display empathy rather than anger. Raising great kids really can be a joy when we remember that we don't have to overcomplicate parenting with too many skills and too much theory. Keep it simple and enjoy your kids.





Summer Reading @ Siouxland Libraries

Siouxland Libraries will offer a free reading program to encourage students to read during the summer months. **Dream Big, Read!** will challenge elementary school-aged children to read 20 minutes a day for at least 30 days between May 19th and August 4th. Children who meet the reading goal will earn a variety of prizes, including a reading club pencil, tattoo, glow-in-the-dark shades, glow-in-the-dark sticky hands, two free tickets to a Sioux Falls Pheasants baseball game, and a \$5.00 Kidtopia toy Store gift certificate. In conjunction with the reading program, the library will offer puppet shows, story programs, workshops and other special activities. A free tutoring program for elementary school students who struggle with their reading and writing will be held at two branch libraries in July. Parents can contact any of the branches for more information.

To join the reading club, students may pick up a reading log at any branch library, download one at www.SLkids.org, or log their reading online at the Siouxland Libraries website.

**Summer Tutoring/SuccessMaker Registration
forms are due Friday, May 4th!**

We need these forms to secure the appropriate number of staff.

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

While I'm not advertising for Hy-Vee, I do applaud their efforts to help kids keep healthy. They have an event in Sioux Falls on June 16th this summer called Hy-Vee IronKids. This event would give 6 to 15 year-old triathletes sixteen chances to qualify for the Hy-Vee IronKids U.S. Championship, to be held September 1st in Des Moines, IA. For more information visit www.ironkids.com

And if your child is not a triathlete, there are developmental track meets in the summer in Sioux Falls. You just have to show up to participate.

Summer Developmental Track Meets

Cosponsored by First Premier Bank and Bank Card. Children and Adults of all ages can participate in numerous track and field events. It's a fun way to participate with others and test out your track skills.

- When: Wednesdays, June 6, 13, and 27
- Time: Registration opens at 5:00, field events at 5:45, track events at 6:00.
- Where: Lincoln High Track



A Close Up View of Mornings with Moms!



Help Us Save!

Check out the following ways to help us out!



Box Tops for Education

Just clip, put in a baggie and return to school!
There is also a drop box at Sunshine.



Save Five for Schools

Just wash these milk and juice lids and send to school in a baggie (or Sunshine). Watch for store specials! We need the WHOLE lid!



Labels for Education

This is not just Campbell's Soup Labels anymore! There are many products that qualify. Check it out at labelsforeducation.com. You can send labels to school with your child or drop in box @ Sunshine.

Cell Phones/Ink Cartridges

You can drop off old cell phones or ink cartridges and we can recycle and get money back. There is a box inside our front door.

Lunch Schedules

If you want to come and eat with your child, here are the lunch schedules:

- 1A 11:10 - 11:40 - Mrs. Knuth
- 1B 11:15 - 11:45 - Mrs. Underberg
- 1C 11:20 - 11:50 - Mrs. O'Hara
- 1D 11:25 - 11:55 - Mrs. Graff
- 1E 11:30 - 12:00 - Ms. Henry
- KA 11:40 - 12:10 - Mrs. Wolles
- KB 11:45 - 12:15 - Mrs. Even
- KC 11:50 - 12:20 - Mrs. Cole
- KD 11:55 - 12:25 - Mrs. Weber
- 2A 12:05 - 12:35 - Mrs. Mriden
- 2B 12:10 - 12:40 - Mrs. Spielmann
- 2C 12:15 - 12:45 - Mr. Jacobs

CGI Problem of the Month Clean Room

Dylan started cleaning his room at 9:00. He finished at 10:30. How long did it take him to clean his room?

